



ACEN REPORT TO ACC 18

Anglican Communion Environmental Network Report to ACC. The mission of the ACEN is to support Provinces to live out the Fifth Mark of Mission:

“To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth”



Activity since ACC 17 : Hong Kong

1. Lambeth Conference

ACEN was very active at Lambeth with the following activities:

- Environmental Day at Lambeth Palace – speakers Archbishop Julio Murray (Panama), Elizabeth Wathuti (Kenya) and Bishop Marinez (Amazonas)
- Launch of Communion Forest – with Anglican Alliance. A wonderful launch ceremony and a website has been developed. <https://www.communionforest.org/>
- Seminar on Environmental action – with round table discussions from 17 “eco-bishops” and an address by Archbishop Julio and interview with young climate activist Mandisa Gumada

2. Launch of Anglican Environmental Network of Africa (Green Anglicans of Africa)

A Conference was held in Lusaka in Oct 2021 where Green Anglicans of Africa was launched. It is encouraging to see the participation of Uganda and Rwanda in this network. We are one Communion Family!

3. COP27 (Egypt) , COP26 (Glasgow)

Archbishop Julio attended both COPS as one of the official ACO reps. ACEN was involved with connecting Anglicans attending from other organisations such as TEC, Climate Yes!, Tearfund, Christian Climate Observers and others.

4. Communion Forest

The vision for the communion Forest was born from the ACC17 resolution to make Lambeth as Environmentally friendly as possible. The initial idea was to have a carbon offset scheme, but this then developed into the Communion forest as a legacy. We are very grateful for the funds that Lambeth has allocated to this project. The vision is catching fire and many Dioceses are linking their tree planting efforts with the forest Initiative.

5. Season of Creation

ACEN brought a resolution to ACC-15 “to consider the inclusion of a season of Creation in the liturgical calendar”. It is very encouraging to see how the Season is being embraced across the Communion. ACEN is a key member of the Season of Creation ecumenical steering committee which provides yearly resources. The Season of creation has also strengthened our ecumenical relations with the Orthodox church and the Catholic Church. For the first time, in 2021 a joint statement was made by the Pope, the Ecumenical Patriarch and the Archbishop of Canterbury for the world day of Prayer for Creation: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/pont-messages/2021/documents/20210901-messaggio-protezionedelcreato.html>

6. Fast for Lent

This has become a regular part of our ministry and numbers continue to grow every year!

7. UNEP/UNEA

ACEN has become a key and respected member of the Faith for the Earth network of UNEA. We attended the UNEA in February 2022, and Rev Rachel Mash is a member of the Faith for the Earth plastic pollution task team and was invited to address the conference on the faith vision for UNEP +50.

8. Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting

Partnering with Tearfund, a Bishop from Rwanda, Malawi and young Green Anglicans from Uganda, South Africa and Malawi attended the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in an advocacy role to push for loss and damage.

9. Communications

Transformation change does not take place when individuals change, it takes place when networked individuals change. We continue to celebrate the important role of social media in our work.

Facebook: 51817

Twitter: 6540

Instagram: 2344

We are very grateful for the input of Rev Ken Gray in the production of our ACEN digest which is a wonderful celebration of achievements and challenges faced by Provinces.



Focus until ACC19

Communion Forest

The focus will be on promoting the Communion Forest globally, gaining technical support partners, funding partners and developing Diocesan twinning relationships.

Strengthening the Network of Provincial reps

Since the resolution ACC 16:08 we have been trying to strengthen our network of Provincial reps but it is often difficult to get a name from the Provinces. We will be having regular Forum meetings of the reps. We hope that all provinces can send us a contact to join the network.

UN events

We will work with ACO/UN and the Anglican Alliance to make sure that the Communion is represented at UNFCCC, UNEP, UN Biodiversity Conference and others. We will promote the Decade of Eco-system restoration and the UN World day for the Environment.

Anglican Communion Networks

We are very committed to strengthen our relationship with the other networks, in particular the youth, indigenous and gender network.



Highlight

The highlight for us was involvement in the Lambeth Conference, in particular the eco-bishops seminar, assisting to organise the Lambeth day and the launch of the Communion Forest. It was wonderful to see dreams become a reality!

Question for ACC

ACC has passed resolutions for several years about reducing the carbon footprint of ACC and Lambeth. How can this best be implemented?

Rev Canon Dr Rachel Mash
ACEN Secretary